

CLAIMS

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1. A storage and retrieval system comprising:  
at least one storage tray comprising plural storage holes;  
at least one gas supply port ; and  
a gas supply manifold for supplying, in use, pressurised gas to the at least one gas supply port; wherein  
the tray is arranged such that it can be moved with respect to the manifold in order to align a selected storage hole in the tray with the port such that, in use, pressurised gas can be applied to the selected hole via the port in order to allow controlled movement of a container stored in the selected hole to a position in which it can be retrieved from the tray.
2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the gas supply port is configured such that the pressurised gas raises the container in use.
3. A system according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein each hole has a retaining member for retaining a container therein.
4. A system according to any preceding claim, in which there are provided plural trays, one arranged above another.
5. A system according to claim 4, wherein each tray has at least one through port therein in order to allow a container to pass through the tray when the through port is aligned with a manifold port.
6. A system according to any preceding claim, in which the manifold has plural ports formed therein.

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7. A system according to any preceding claim, in which the trays are circular in shape.

8. A system according to any preceding claim, in which the trays are rotatable with respect to the manifold.

9. A system according to any preceding claim, further comprising means for controlling, in use, the pressure of gas supplied through the manifold in order to control the velocity or position of a selected container during retrieval and/or insertion.

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